

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

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REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED
Information.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	#	AEC								
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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 11 Oct. 1955

SUBJECT Bulgarian Army Artillery

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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PLACE ACQUIRED

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Non-Divisional Artillery

there were non-divisional artillery units in the Bulgarian Army and such units were subordinate to the one corps, three armies, and/or GHQ Reserve (RGK - Reserv Glavno Komandvanay).

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during 1951, at least one unidentified heavy artillery regiment, one unidentified antitank regiment, one unidentified rocket-launcher regiment, and other types of units were theoretically subordinate directly to the RGK.

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RGK artillery units, particularly the "heavy" artillery regiment, had artillery weapons ranging from 152 mm to 225 mm and possibly heavier types.

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SECRET25 YEAR
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SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

Artillery AAA Divisions

3. [redacted] there were no artillery or AA divisions in the Bulgarian Army in [redacted] 1953 [redacted]

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25X1Smaller Artillery AAA Units

4. Regiments were the highest level of artillery unit. [redacted] these were subordinate to either divisions, corps, armies, or the GHQ reserve.
5. Concerning AAA materiel [redacted]: In 1951, [redacted] at least two AA gun positions about one kilometer beyond the southeastern part of Sofia on the Sofia-Plovdiv road. 2 [redacted] there were about six such gun positions which formed a circle at this location and that each gun was emplaced about 40 m apart. [redacted] they were camouflaged with a net and only a small portion of the barrels was visible. Furthermore, a barbed wire fence had been constructed around the entire area. [redacted] the gun crews lived within the area. [redacted] there were several such AA gun positions within the vicinity of Sofia.

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AAA Guns at Ruse

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6. During 1954, [redacted] four AA gun positions on a hillside at the eastern edge of Ruse, on the Ruse-Silistra (N 44-08, E 27-17) road. 2 The gun positions were estimated to be about 50 m apart and appeared to form a semi-circle. [redacted] their mission was to protect the international bridge which crossed the Danube. The guns [redacted] were camouflaged with a net and only the barrels were visible. [redacted] they comprised an AAA battery. The gun crews apparently lived within the area since [redacted] a one-story brick building, measuring about 25 m in length, and one small garage within the area which was surrounded by a barbed wire fence.

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7. [redacted] another AAA battery was located in the southern vicinity of Ruse. [redacted]

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Units in Pleven

3. [redacted] in the Pleven area [redacted] an unidentified infantry division was located there it was subordinate to the Second Army. [redacted]

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Units in Kolarovgrad (formerly Shumen)

9. [redacted] the 18th Infantry Division Headquarters, plus all subordinate units except the 46th Infantry Regiment, were located in the Kolarovgrad area during 1953. [redacted] the 46th Infantry Regiment which was subordinate to this division and located at Tolbukhin (formerly Dobrich). [redacted] this division was commonly known as the "Shumen Division" but [redacted] it might well have been the Kolarovgrad Division. [redacted] there had been no change in the location of these units as late as 1954.

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SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

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10. The Third Army headquarters and subordinate elements moved from Kolarovgrad about 1950. The 18th Infantry Division Headquarters, plus all subordinate units except the 46th Infantry Regiment, moved to Kolarovgrad at some subsequent date and occupied the casernes vacated by Third Army elements.

11. During 1953, an unidentified howitzer artillery regiment, commonly referred to as "GAP" (Gaubichen Artileriski Armayski Polk), which was subordinate to the Third Army, was located in Kolarovgrad.

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have had about 36 howitzers of a caliber less than 152 mm. [redacted] regiment should

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Units in Ruse

12. During 1954 [redacted] another unidentified gun artillery regiment, subordinate to Third Army, was located at Ruse and [redacted] it had been there for several years. During 1954 [redacted] several 152 mm guns of this regiment, of German World War II type, break the ice on the Danube River. [redacted] this regiment had an unknown number of 152 mm guns of German World War II origin and possibly other types.

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Other Units

13. [redacted] an unidentified heavy antitank artillery regiment was located in Nova Zagora (N 42-29, E 26-01) during 1953. [redacted] radio operator assigned to this regiment [redacted] this regiment was equipped with 45 mm antitank guns despite the fact that it was called a "heavy" antitank artillery regiment.

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Army Artillery

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14.

Third Army consisted of the following organizations [redacted]

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Unit

Location

7th Infantry Division (Podelenie 65100)	Yambol (N 42-28, E 26-31)
18th Infantry Division	Kolarovgrad
22nd Infantry Division	Khaskovo
U/1 Tank Brigade	Sliven (N 42-40, E 26-19)
U/1 Mountain Infantry Brigade (Podelenie 70120)	Zvezdets (N 42-07, E 27-24)
U/1 Howitzer Artillery Regiment	Kolarovgrad
U/1 Gun Artillery Regiment	Ruse
U/1 Engineer Regiment	Sliven
U/1 Signal Regiment	Sliven
U/1 Truck Transportation Regiment	Sliven
U/1 Chemical Battalion	Sliven
U/1 Reconnaissance Battalion	Sliven

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[redacted] the First and Second Armies were similarly organized.

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SECRET

- 4 -

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16. [REDACTED] 25X1
17. [REDACTED] the theoretical T/O structure of an 25X1
 artillery regiment was three battalions, i.e., one battalion of guns,
 one battalion of howitzers, and one battalion which consisted of an
 antitank, an AA, and a mortar battery [REDACTED] 25X1
 [REDACTED] 25X1

Corps Artillery

18. [REDACTED] 25X1
 [REDACTED] during 1953 there was only one corps in the Bulgarian Army. [REDACTED] 25X1
 [REDACTED] its headquarters was located at Dolni Chiflik (N 42-59, 25X1
 E 27-42) and [REDACTED] it consisted of two unidentified infantry divisions. 25X1
 One division headquarters [REDACTED] located at Burgas and the other 25X1
 division headquarters [REDACTED] was located at Stalin (formerly Varna) 25X1
 [REDACTED] 25X1

6. [REDACTED] Comment: In connection with the increasing Sovietization of 25X1
 the Bulgarian Army shown by a number of reports, it is interesting
 to note that the 83rd Heavy Machine Gun Battalion, nevertheless,
 numbered among its weapons 20 German 50 mm AT guns, Rheinmetal, and 25X1
 four German 75 mm AT guns PAK-40 horsedrawn, 45 8 mm Schwarzlose
 machine guns, and an unknown number of 8 mm Manlicher carbines and
 9 mm Walther pistols; all of these were of German World War II origin.

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